

Loop-the-Loop

Estimated Time for Activity: ~5 minutes

Optional Objectives:

The students will:

- Gain insight into concepts of energy and conservation thereof
- Gain understanding in circular motion

Materials:

- Loop-the-loop
- Metal ball bearing

Optional Vocabulary:

- Conservation of energy
- Kinetic energy
- Potential energy
- Centripetal acceleration

Procedures:

- Start the ball at the long gentle sloped side of the loop-the-loop, and let the ball go.
- Now, start the ball at the other side and notice it cannot make it around the loop.

Optional Post-Activity Question(s):

- Why could the ball make it from one way but not the other?
- What kept the ball on the track in the loop?